



208 Lake Street, Suite 2E, Sitka AK 99835 (907) 209-3037

March 27, 2025

Ms. Angel Drobnica, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
1007 West Third, Suite 400  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

D3 – Central GOA Rockfish Program Review

Dear Chair Drobnica and Members of the Council:

Silver Bay Seafoods asks that the Council reconsider the processor use caps under its Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Cooperative Program. The current 40 percent cap, although recently established, may prevent the industry from best satisfying markets and realizing operational efficiencies.

Silver Bay Seafoods is a fishermen-owned seafood processing company, founded in Sitka. We own and operate seafood plants across the State of Alaska with over 3,500 employees statewide. Our operations also support over 3,000 independent fishermen in the state. Our fisherman-owners and employees depend on the fisheries managed by the Council.

Silver Bay Seafoods participates in the processing sector under the rockfish program through two Kodiak processing plants; one plant we own and operate; and a second that we operate and partially own. We intend to continue operating both facilities for not only rockfish, but also other groundfish species and salmon. In the future, market demands and processing efficiencies could favor consolidation of rockfish processing in one (or the other) facility in a given year, as the two plants produce different products that serve different markets. Operational efficiencies may also be available through concentrating processing of different species and products at the two different plants, which may be prevented by the current caps that apply at the plant level. Recent changes in the processing sector suggest that additional flexibilities available through relaxing the processing caps may allow us to better serve markets and the fishermen who deliver their catch to us.

This proposal is not time sensitive. In the interest of using staff time efficiently, we ask that the Council look for an opportunity to advance this as part of an appropriate amendment package that includes other actions.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Mark Fina